



**GOVERNOR'S ARIZONA READY EDUCATION COUNCIL
MINUTES
General Meeting – August 29, 2012
10:00 A.M.**

Location: 1700 W. Washington
Second Floor Conference Room
Phoenix, AZ

Members Present: Dr. Craig Barrett (telephonic), Superintendent John Huppenthal, Dr. Tom Anderes (telephonic), Tim Carter, Sen. Rich Crandall, Pearl Esau, Rep. Tom Forese, Dr. Rufus Glasper (telephonic), Rep. Doris Goodale, Jake Logan, Diane McCarthy, Colleen Niccum, Merl Waschler (telephonic), and Dr. Jim Zaharis (telephonic)

Members Absent: Don Cardon, Amanda McAdams, Nancy Meech, Jaime Molera, Onnie Shekerjian, and Kathy Player

Staff Present: Dale Frost, and Rebecca Gau

1. Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions

Dr. Craig Barrett called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Diane McCarthy moved for the approval of the July 17, 2012 Council meeting minutes as presented. Tim Carter seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Reports & Updates

- Arizona Department of Education

Supt. Huppenthal updated the Council in the following areas;

- ADE was approved for the ESEA waiver grant.
- AIMS' testing is continuing in an upward trend but only an estimated 26% of students are college & career ready in reading, 8% in math, and 7% in both reading & math.
- A-F letter grades for schools were released which included small and alternative schools, shining a light on the need for an upgraded data system.
- Introduced Jennifer Johnson to the ADE staff as the replacement for John Stollar

- Language initiative work with school districts providing mandarin Chinese education as well as work that has allowed tribes to train and certify teachers in Native American languages.

- Dr. Craig Barrett

Dr. Barrett updated the Council on his recent tour of Northern Arizona to Kingman, Flagstaff, Pinon and Show Low. Dr. Barrett spoke to superintendents, administrators, teachers, etc. and updated the groups on the work of the Council in the areas of education funding, dropout rates, and the Council's current partnership with ADE on the IT Taskforce. Dr. Barrett advised that the purpose of the tour was also to collect feedback from outlying districts on CCSS implementation. Dr. Barrett indicated that with each group knowledge was high on Common Core but there was also skepticism for the State's ability to implement these new standards as well as the PARCC assessment tool. Need to make sure that the outlying districts know that their needs are being heard and taken into account in decision making.

- Governor's Office of Education Innovation

Rebecca Gau updated the Council in the following areas;

- Expect More Arizona Public Engagement Task Force – press conference Sept 5 at 2pm to launch ADE's new CCSS website
- Common Core Conference planning – adjusted plan for more long term approach, building out “steering committee” but we are still in very early stages
- Graduation Rate task force is fleshing out recommendations based on Council feedback
- Funding task force created a smaller working group to develop a “big picture” funding model that includes performance based measures
- Next Steps;
 - Focus on work of task forces
 - Continue to develop AZ CCSS conference
 - Continue to develop AZ CCSS communications
 - Refresh AZ Ready communications
 - Council member outreach by staff to get feedback on possible improvements for Council meetings

- State Board of Education

Vince Yanez, Executive Director of the Arizona State Board of Education, updated the Council about the transition issues associated with PARCC. Mr. Yanez provided the Council with a possible timeline for implementation which identifies what the major policy issues are going to be around the transition. Mr. Yanez focused the Council's attention to the following considerations before the State Board for 2012;

- Should the Board mandate a single course sequence for mathematics?
- Which cohort will be required to meet the PARCC requirements as opposed to AIMS?
- Should the Board look at alternative methods to meet the statutory requirement for the administration of a NRT (presently the SAT 10)?

- Arizona Community College Presidents' Council

Dr. Rufus Glasper, President of the Arizona Community College Presidents' Council, updated the Council on the one year grant received by Maricopa County Community College by Lumina which will assist in developing a performance funding model. This grant will also include funding for national advisory group discussions, best practice analysis, national peer workshops, both district and state wide engagement and technical assistance, as well as look for input from stakeholders at the Legislature, Governor's Office, and local community colleges to talk about what is expected from a performance funding model. This work will build upon the Community College strategic vision and should be completed by November 2013.

4. Report: VIVA Project

Eileen Sigmund, with the Arizona Charter Schools Association, and Charlene Mendoza, with Arizona College Preparatory Academy, presented on focus group information gathered from teachers on statewide common core implementation. Based on this focus group, seven recommendations were offered for consideration;

1. Develop or ensure access to cost-effective teacher training tools in a wide variety of formats.
2. Provide multiple training sessions and specialized tracks that focus on Arizona's Common Core Standards.
3. Reinvent professional development and the role of teachers as active, participatory learners.
4. Time must be dedicated to teacher collaboration, particularly across disciplines.
5. Design interdisciplinary curriculum maps, frameworks and lesson plans that weave in all subjects and content areas.
6. Align higher education teaching programs with new instructional demands for Arizona's Common Core Standards.
7. Revamp the Arizona Department of Education's website to make it easier to access resources for Arizona's Common Core Standards.

5. Review: Report Card Update

Kerry McConnell, with the Governor's Office of Education Innovation, reviewed Arizona Ready Education Report Card and the statewide progress towards the Council's goals and a brief breakdown of patterns in the K-6 and High School data. Council members asked Ms. McConnell for a closer look and breakdown of the third grade reading data.

6. Report: Regional Centers

Tim Cater Superintendent of Yavapai County, present on the current work of the Regional Service Centers. Supt. Carter explained that Regional Centers are voluntary structures implemented by County School Superintendents and/or an alliance of Education Service Agencies that provide locally defined and accessible professional development, educational services, and technical assistance to address statewide, high priority initiatives, including but not limited to, Data Use, Standards and Assessments, Great Teachers/Great Leaders, Struggling Schools, and STEM. Supt. Carter stressed the fact that participation from any LEA with the Regional Centers is on a voluntary basis and is one option available to local governing boards. Supt. Carter explained that each region is structured differently depending on the needs of each region.

7. Report: AHEEC/PARCC

Stephanie Jacobson with the Board of Regents presented an update on the role of PARCC in higher education. PARCC and higher education are particularly linked to develop high school assessments that will determine college readiness for entry-level math and English language arts courses and will be used by higher education for placement in these courses. Ms. Jacobson discussed the key elements of college-ready determination policy;

1. Identifies the entry level college courses
 - Math: College Algebra or Statistics
 - ELA: English Composition or Literature, or intro courses in disciplines requiring college level reading (social sciences, etc)
2. Assessment results not intended to inform admissions decisions to higher education or replace assessments for higher level courses
3. Higher education institutions may determine “shelf-life” of assessment results.
4. Validation studies to be based on– “at least 75% of students who earn PARCC College-Ready Determinant will earn...at least grade of C or better.”

The final part of the policy speaks of the 5 performance levels awarded to students who take the assessment level, level one being very limited knowledge of content and level 5 superior knowledge of content. College-ready determination will be awarded to students who achieve level 4. Ms. Jacobson explained that the survey about these proposed policies is ongoing and should be available to the public by September. Council Members were interested in a presentation from one of Arizona’s Teaching Colleges present at a future meeting on what type of work is being done to prepare new teachers for the rigor of common core.

8. Council Comments & Next steps

CB was very interested in the continued work of the K-20 Funding, Graduation Rate and IT Task forces. Dr. Barrett also was interested in further review of the third grade reading data results. Supt. Huppenthal agreed and requested a review of reading results when compared to the A-F rating of specific schools.

9. Call to the Public

Susan Carlson with ABEC informed the Council of a Public Forum on Quality Education & Jobs Initiative taking place on September 24th at 7:30 a.m. and invited Council Members and members of the public to attend.

Andrew Morrill with AZ Education Association, offered his thanks to ADE and Karla Philips on the NCLB waiver allowing elements of A-F accountability intact. Mr. Morrill feels room for overlap with the results of the VIVA project, specifically recommendations 2, 3, 4, 5, & 7 and advised that these are already at work with the train the trainer model. Mr. Morrill informed the Council that he is currently working with the K-20 workgroup as part of the K-20 Funding Task force and urges the use of not only performance funding but also base funding. Mr. Morrill feels there is an opportunity to overlap performance pay with the report card, and asked that incentives are provided across all levels. Lastly Mr. Morrill brought attention to new metric that validates the use of satisfaction surveys as a measure for student achievement.

10. Adjourn

Superintendent John Huppenthal thanked everyone for their attendance and participation in today's meeting and advised that the next meeting of the Council would be **October 4th at 10:00 a.m.**

With no further business before the Council, Superintendent Huppenthal adjourned the meeting at 11:55a.m.

Unofficial